Supply of Goods to Republics of Erstwhile USSR

2927. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent 'over supply' of goods to the Republics of Erstwhile USSR and to check the possibility of losing our on the present market share;

(b) whether export trading houses are also permitted to have counter trade with each Republics; and

(c) if so, the system proposed to be introduced to register all export contracts and to monitor the total value and quantity of exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). India has signed trade protocols with the Government of Russia and Uzbekistan providing for two-way trade on a balanced basis with clearing in non-convertible Indian rupees. A ceiling has been placed on the technical credit, wherever provided, so that Indian exports do not outstrip impotrs from these Republics. Besides, to provide freedom to Indian exporters to retain and enlarge their markets in the Republics of he erstwhile Soviet union, the trade protocols also permits natural and juridical persons to conduct trade on the basis of barter, counter trade and through payment in hard currency. It is expected that trade protocols will be signed with the other Republics in the near future.

Appointment of Auditors for public Sector Undertakings

2928. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are formulating a proposal to dilute the role of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (C & AG) in specifying the auditor (s) to be appointed to look into the accounts of Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the rationale behind whittling down he Comptroller and Auditor General's role in naming auditors for Public Sector Undertakings; and

(c) how far it is likely to be an improvement on the existing procedure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUARAMANGALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c). Question does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Committee on Balance of Payments

2929. SHRI BARE LAL JATAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee on Balance of Payments set up o investigate the present structure of debt has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) if not, the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir. The Committee has not yet submitted any report on the present structure of debt.